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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Go SHIMADA

Group Art Unit: 1732

Application No.: 10/092,755

Examiner: S. Lechert

Filed: March 8, 2002

Docket No.: 112166

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR EXTRUDING UNVULCANIZED RUBBER

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

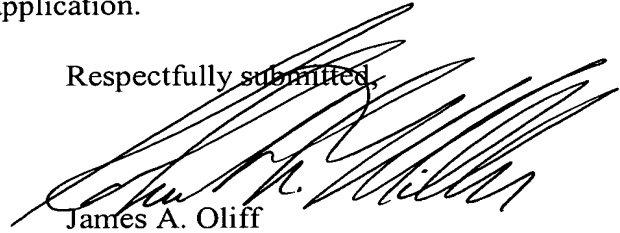
Sir:

In reply to the March 19, 2004 Restriction Requirement, Applicant provisionally elects Invention I, claims 1-9, with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1-15 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group would necessarily encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining Groups. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that a search and examination of the entire application could be performed without serious burden. MPEP §803 clearly states that "If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions." (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessarily delay and expense to Applicant and duplicate examination by the Patent Office.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the Restriction Requirement and to examine all claims in this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: April 13, 2004

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